

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### **Curtiss Metal Connection, Inc.**

**Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center**

#### **Strategic Plan Gives Direction To Curtiss Metal Connection**

##### **Client Profile:**

Curtiss Metal Connection, Inc. is a job shop responsible for machining and welding parts for manufacturers located in Northern Wisconsin and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Located in Curtiss, Wisconsin, the company has been in business since 1990 and currently employs 14 people.

##### **Situation:**

Curtiss Metal Connection wanted to grow its business, but needed to address several improvement issues before it could do so. The company needed help achieving its goals. One of Curtiss Metal Connection's major customers referred the company to the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

##### **Solution:**

NWMOC met with the co-owners of Curtiss Metal Connection to discuss manufacturing improvements. After considerable discussion, NWMOC recommended that Curtiss Metal Connection begin the process of improvement by developing a strategic plan. NWMOC guided them through this process. With a strategic plan in place, NWMOC helped the company implement the action steps needed to achieve its goals. Focusing on environment, efficiency, and safety, Curtiss Metal Connection is fulfilling its mission: "Meeting the Expectations of Customers, Employees, and Community Through Quality Machined Parts."

##### **Results:**

Significantly improved general housekeeping throughout the entire plant.  
Improved job performance.  
Significantly improved throughput time.  
Made significant economic improvements to safety record.  
Created 1 new job.

##### **Testimonial:**

"We are very happy with what we went through with the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center. I am extremely pleased with [their] efforts."  
Duane Schmidt, President